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LB 149, 386A

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. Could I ask Senator Bohlke a question, would she yield to a question, please?

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Bohlke.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Yes.

SENATOR BROMM: Senator Bohlke, I support the concept of 386, I want you to know that. I have...I have a question and I'd like you to think about this a little bit between now and Select File. When we do these things, we generally always write in, as we have in this bill, that the amount that we're...that we're designating will be increased by the percentage growth in fall membership, plus the allowable basic growth rate. What if we see a decline in our fall enrollment at some point? Would we or could it be wise to allow for a reduction in appropriation if we have a decline in our enrollment? We're seeing and hearing things, we have the university decline in enrollment, and I think we need to be...I think we need to be cognizant of the fact that these things can go the other direction, and when they do, I would think that we should have the ability to save a little money. What would be your comment or thought about that?

SENATOR BOHLKE: Yes, Senator Bromm, that's a good point. If you noticed on the information we handed out on LB 149, and you go down the column on student enrollment, you will see a lot...many schools losing students. My answer to you, and we can discuss this more before Select File, would be you would need the allowable growth rate for the growth in cost, but I think that you raise a good point, that if there's a decline in students, that that should be taken possibly into the formula, into the factor, that would possibly be reflected in not going the total amount in the allowable growth rate. But I do think, regardless of the number of students, and we've heard this from small schools, that you still have a growth in your costs, and I think in the area of technology, we would have to recognize that that certainly would be the case regardless of the number of students, but when we send it out for students, you're right. If we have fewer students overall in the state, I'm very willing to talk to you about that between now and Select File of recognizing that in some manner, but making sure we protect an